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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

American Academy of Political and Social Science.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

INTEREST in scientific work of all kinds has increased of late so rapidly in the United States as to attract the attention of observers in every country. In no department has this interest been more active or scientific progress been more real than in the field of economic, social and political studies. We have not, it is true, as yet made contributions which would entitle us to take rank with England or Germany or France, but in no country is there at present a more hopeful outlook for scientific work of a high character along these lines than in America.

The evidence of this is cumulative and abundant. University professors in Germany agree pretty generally that they have had in the last fifteen years no more eager, industrious and able students than those who go from this side the water. University professors in this country testify to the steadily improving quality and continually growing number of students interested in these fields. The growing facilities for study along these lines in our own institutions speak more eloquently than words of the new era that has dawned upon us.

In the larger colleges the field has been subdivided so as to permit a detailed kind of work which even ten years ago was impossible. In the smaller ones it has been separated from other and dissimilar fields and entrusted to what fifteen years ago was almost unknown outside of a few institutions—the specialist, fitted by taste and training to do original work as well as teaching.

The instruction offered at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Cornell, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins is not only of high character, but of a comprehensive scope and spirit which, ten years ago, would have been deemed impossible; while that given in many other institutions is, if not so comprehensive, at least as thorough and vigorous as in the larger centres. It is a most hopeful sign that many of our best workers in this field are in smaller or newer institutions scattered from

Maine to California and from Minnesota to the Gulf, working oftentimes under unfavorable conditions, but doing their share toward cultivating the common field and increasing our stock of scientific capital.

The increase in public interest is amply evidenced by the growing attention given to such problems by our daily or weekly papers and by our leading monthlies and reviews. The interest in the scientific aspect of these problems is also plain from the growing stock of technical or professional literature. We have already two high-class reviews—the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* and the *Political Science Quarterly*—periodicals of which any country might be proud—one published at Harvard and the other at Columbia. The Johns Hopkins Series of Studies, the University of Pennsylvania Series on Political Economy and Public Law, the American Economic Association Series, the *American Social Science Journal*, the Statistical Association Series—all successful publications of established reputation—show how strong and deep these subjects are striking root in American soil.

The recent contributions to economic and political science by American writers are neither few nor unimportant, and they cover every part of the field with more or less thoroughness. The text-books for elementary instruction by Andrews, Ely, Laughlin, McVane and Walker, the contributions to economic history by Taussig, Jenks, Bourne and others too numerous to mention, the essays on transportation by Hadley and Seligman, the work on theoretical economics by Clark and Patten, the work on statistics by Dewey, Smith and Wright, that by Goodnow and Wilson on political science, are simple specimens, taken at random, of American work which have commanded not only local but foreign attention as well.

Another and no less striking indication of a growing scientific spirit is to be found in the effort to secure such coöperation among scientific workers as can only be obtained by the organization of societies and associations. To those of a national scope and spirit which have exercised or are exercising a wide influence belong the American Social Science Association, the American Economic Association, and the American Statistical Association, the latter having been recently revived and made efficient chiefly through the efforts of Prof. Dewey. It is a special society whose object is sufficiently explained by its title. The first two cover a wide field, one of them has a long, and both of them an honorable, history.

In spite of the valuable work of these organizations, it was widely felt that the spirit of scientific coöperation had not found an adequate expression; that there was still room for another society; that there was work of a specific kind which could not be done by any of the existing associations. As a result of this feeling, a preliminary meeting for organization was held in Philadelphia, December 14th, 1889, in the

Lecture Hall of the Law School, Girard Building, corner of Broad and Chestnut Streets.

A temporary organization was effected which was subsequently made permanent. The name selected for the new organization was the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and Philadelphia was selected as its headquarters. The list of officers and advisory committee will be found in the printed announcement.

The response to the invitation to become members of the Academy testifies to the strength of the feeling that there is important work to be done in this field, which previously existing societies cannot do. Over seven hundred persons have joined the society, although it is not yet six months old. The membership is scattered from Maine to California, every state being represented by one or more persons.

The plan of organization calls for regular meetings for the presentation of papers and communications and the discussion of the same. Members who may not be able to attend may send papers or communications to the corresponding secretary, who will present them to the Academy. Annual meetings will be held at such times and places as the council may decide. Suitable papers and communications will be published in full or in abstract in the proceedings of the Academy.

It is proposed through this society to secure to investigators of economics, politics and sociology, a regular means of getting the results of their studies directly before the public most interested in them, and as soon as possible after they are ready for publication. It will not be necessary to wait for an annual or biennial meeting in order to find an audience for a special paper. It can be sent at any time to the Academy, be there read and discussed, labeled, dated and put on file for publication. The Academy will, in a word, afford to students of economics, politics and sociology an opportunity for speedy publication of important matter—like that afforded in a similar field by the various academies of natural science. Brief communications in regard to special points, new facts in economic or social or political life, and similar matter will be acceptable.

It has been decided to publish the proceedings in the form of a quarterly periodical, to be called the ANNALS OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY, with such supplementary numbers as circumstances may make necessary. The quarterly and supplements will be sent gratis to all members.

FIRST SESSION.

The First Scientific Session of the Academy was held in Philadelphia, on Friday, the 21st of March, 1890, in the rooms of the New Century Club, 1520 Chestnut Street, at 8 o'clock P.M.

The President of the Academy, Professor Edmund J. James, delivered a brief opening address on the *raison d'être* of the Academy, the history of its formation and its general plan of work.

The Corresponding Secretary announced that the following papers had been submitted to the Academy :

1. By Dr. J. G. Bourinot, of Ottawa, Canada, on the Politics of Canada and the United States.

2. By Mr. J. G. Rosengarten, on the History of the Philadelphia Social Science Association. Read by title. To be printed in full.

3. By Professor Simon N. Patten, on Decay of Local and State Government in the United States.

4. By Mr. Stuart Wood, on Theories of Wages.

5. By Professor W. P. Holcomb, on a National Department of Education.

Mr. Stuart Wood read the paper, submitted by him, on Theories of Wages. He gave a history of the wage-fund theory from its origin to the restatement of Cairnes, and showed how it should be modified in order to be a satisfactory explanation of wage phenomena. To be printed in full.

Professor Simon N. Patten read a paper on Decay of Local and State Governments in the United States. Printed in the ANNALS, July, 1890.

SECOND SESSION.

The Second Scientific Session of the Academy was held Tuesday, April 29th, at 8 o'clock P.M., in the rooms of the New Century Club, in Philadelphia.

The following papers were announced :

6. The Theory of Wages and Interest. By Professor J. B. Clark, of Smith College, Mass. Read by title, and printed in the ANNALS, July, 1890.

7. The Zone-Tariff in Hungary. Translation by Jane J. Wetherell. Read by title and printed in the ANNALS, July, 1890.

8. Cost of the Church in America. By Henrietta Leonard. In preparation.

9. A Chapter in the History of the House of Refuge in Philadelphia. By Mr. J. G. Rosengarten. Printed as Supplement to the ANNALS, July, 1890.

10. The Province of Sociology. By Professor F. A. Giddings, Bryn Mawr College.

11. A New System of Passenger Fares. By Professor Edmund J. James.

12. Instruction in Politics and Economics in German Universities. By Leo S. Rowe. Read by title and printed in ANNALS, July, 1890.

13. Communication from Dr. R. P. Falkner on the International Criminal Law Association. Read by title and printed in ANNALS, July, 1890.

Professor F. A. Giddings read the paper submitted by him on the Province of Sociology (No. 10). Printed in the ANNALS, July, 1890.

Professor C. Stuart Patterson read a digest of the paper submitted by Dr. Bourinot (No. 1), on Politics in Canada and the United States. In the discussion which followed, Professor Patterson took the ground that the system of ministerial responsibility which the author of the paper seemed to approve was unsuited to our system of government, and had not yet been tried long enough in any purely democratic country to enable us to form an ultimate opinion in regard to its merits. There are, indeed, some indications that it is becoming unsatisfactory even in England.

Mr. Rosengarten thought that the test of modern governments was coming to be more and more their success in local municipal government, and he was desirous of knowing how the Canadian system worked in that respect. Col. Thomas J. Dudley did not know whether the system of ministerial responsibility was the cause or not, but he was convinced from a careful study of the facts—made possible by a long residence abroad—that the cities of

western Europe are very much better governed than ours. In Liverpool, where he resided for several years, malfeasance in office was unknown. Money appropriated for a given purpose was expended for that purpose, and public wants were fairly well looked after.

Mr. Rosengarten read a paper on the House of Refuge in Philadelphia. Printed as a supplement to the *ANNALS*, July, 1890.

Professor E. J. James read a paper on a New System of Passenger Fares. Printed in abstract as an introductory note to the article on the Zone-Tariff in Hungary, in the first number of the *ANNALS*.

In the discussion which followed this paper, the question was raised by Mr. Rosengarten whether the operating expenses of the roads in Hungary had increased more or less rapidly than the passenger traffic under the new system? The official report did not show this, was the answer; but when one considers that the wagons ran, before the introduction of the new system, with only about 25 per cent. of the seats occupied, it is plain that an enormous increase of traffic might take place without necessitating any increase of cars or employees, more particularly as the new system of selling tickets made a saving in ticket agents possible.¹

The question was also raised whether the roads were state or private works? The answer was that both state and private roads are in the combination accepting the new system.

Mr. E. P. Cheyney suggested that the tendency to travel for the sake of travel was not an unmitigated good, and that an undue development of passenger traffic was not on the whole desirable.

¹ The note in the abstract of Professor James' article on p. 106, of the first number of the *ANNALS*, shows that as a matter of fact there was no increase of operating expenses.